**Integrated Programme for Older Persons**

2555.SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1919 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th December, 1999 and state :

(a) the details of an integrated programme for older persons which have been started in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the schemes of assistance to Panchayati Raj institutions/voluntary organizations/self-help groups for construction of old age homes, multi service centres for older persons formulated in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated for each cause during the fmancial year 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The fiinds under the Integrated Programme for Older Persons are not allocated State-wise and district-wise. In Himachal Pradesh one NGO namely Indira Ladies Club, Nahan has been released an amount of Rs. 5,44,878/- during 1999-2000 for running a Day Care Centre and maintenance of a Mobile Medicare Unit for older persons.

(b) The funds under the scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organizations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons are not allocated State-wise and district-wise. In Himachal Pradesh one NGO viz. Age Care India, Shimla has been released Rs. 10 lakhs as first instalment out of Rs. 15 lakhs sanctioned for construction of an Old Age Home during 1999-2000.

(c) The budget allocation for entire country during the financial year 1999-2000 was Rs. 10.00 Crores under the scheme of "An Integrated Programme for Older Persons" and Rs. 2.39 Crores under the scheme of

Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organizations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons.

**Revision of OBC List**

2556. SHRI C. M IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have revised the Central OBC list for the States of Karnataka, UP., Rajasthan and West Bengal with a large numb^ of additions and alterations;

(b) if so, the number and the details of additions and alterations; and

(c) what criteria have been adopted for such additions and alterations indicating the percentage of persons living below poverty line amongst these castes in each of the States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b)The Central hst of Other Backward Classes for the States of Karnataka and UP, was first notified on 13-9-1993 and for Rajasthan and West Bengal, on 20-10-1994. Subsequently, the Central list of Other Backward Classes in respect of these States have been modified vide Gazette of India Notifications No. 60 dated 11-3-1996, No. 210 dated 11-12-1996, No, 239 dated 17-12-1997, No. 241 dated 27-10-1999 and No. 270 dated 6-12-1999.

(c) As per provisions under the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993, the National Commission for Backward Classes has been set up. The Commission examines the requests for inclusion of any class of citizens as backward class in the Central List of OBC and hears complaints of over-inclusion or under-inclusion of any backward class in the list and tenders such advice to Central Government, as it deems appropriate.

The Commission has formulated guidelines for consideration of requests which include criteria covering social, educational and economic aspects of backwardness.